

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ross Siemens, Chair
Paula Olmstead
Amrik Narang
Gordon Holloway
Mandy Padda

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Constable Colin Watson
Deputy Chief Constable Jason Burrows – Administration
Deputy Chief Constable Dan Culbertson – Operations
Director Bea Nicolato – Finance & Budget Branch
Inspector Kevin Murray

REGRETS:

Amar Rai

GUEST(S):

Special Advisor - Chris Dominato

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Shyanne Bergen

The meeting was called to order at 8:55 AM.

1. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

2. Chris Dominato – Special Advisor

Chair Siemens reported that Mr. Dominato is now special advisor to the board and noted that in this capacity he would not be entitled to vote.

3. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

- (a) Minutes from previous meeting – March 27, 2024
- (b) Minutes from previous meeting – April 24, 2024
- (c) Financial Statements – April 30, 2024
- (d) Crime Overview Report – April 2024 (NEW)
 - (i) A new crime overview report was provided at the meeting and is included in the minutes
- (e) Media Report – Mid-April to Mid-May
- (f) Policies – Repeal Package G

4. Business Arising Out of Previous Minutes

None.

5. Presentation: Mobile Integrated Crisis Response (MICR) – Insp. Kevin Murray

Insp. Murray did a presentation on the Mobile Integrated Crisis Response (MICR) and Car 87 (copy of the presentation is enclosed).

Insp. Murray specifically noted that the MICR team in Abbotsford is patrol-based compared to other local jurisdictions and that direct data comparisons may be difficult for this reason. He advised that it is the officer's job to work in partnership with the nurse and attend in a non-uniform capacity.

Fraser Health did a study based on stats collected from hospitals to see where most mental health calls occur in a 24-hour period, to decide when to operate the MICR team. The MICR team operates from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, 365 days a year.

Insp. Murray noted that MICR is not a referral-based program and that the service cannot be directly requested. It is up to the Staff Sergeant to assess and determine if MICR will respond to a call. He also advised that if there is a safety concern, another police officer will go to assist MICR. It was noted that the nurse cannot go in until it is deemed safe by the officer.

Insp. Murray reported on the required training for the MICR team, including trauma-informed training, which Fraser Health hosts three times a year. Both the officer and the nurse train together and it does not cost the department. The trauma training is online and is 10 hours long. He noted that roughly 1/3 of the membership now has the extra training for indigenous cultural safety.

Mr. Narang asked about multilanguage nurses and was advised that we do not have control of the nurses Fraser Health assigns but that they are residents of Abbotsford. It was noted that Archway has interpretation services which are available 24/7 and have 64 languages available. It was also noted that all the nurses have been Caucasian females.

Ms. Olmstead asked who puts on the indigenous training and was advised it is a part of the Fraser Health 3-day course, which happens in Surrey and is four hours long.

Insp. Murray reported on the two (2) step test prescribed in the *Mental Health Act* to apprehend an individual under section 87. It was noted that the nurse is able to look into the mental health database and verbally advise the officer of what they see; but that the officer does not have access to the database themselves. The officer then determines based on the current situation and the history provided by the nurse, whether to apprehend the affected individual. It was specifically noted that the nurse does not have the authority to apprehend under the *Mental Health Act*.

Insp. Murray advised that the presented use of force stats do not only show the number of times force was used on an affected individual but also the threat of use of force, including the display of force options.

Insp. Murray reported on the wait times at Abbotsford Regional Hospital and that the main contributor to wait times is triage. It was noted that all patients must be cleared by triage before going to Zone 5 (psychiatric ward), and that the delay is not caused by Zone 5. It was also noted that when MICR is operating it is normally during the hospital's peak hours, compared to when patrol alone attends (10 PM to 10 AM). It was also noted that when the officers complete their reports, they are required to put in how long they waited at the hospital, which is where the stats that are being presented come from.

Insp. Murray advised that the next step is to introduce HealthIM, which will provide more information intended to fast-track triage. It is rolling out for Abbotsford later this summer or early fall. Ms. Padda asked if HealthIM was already implemented and was advised that it was originally implemented in Port Moody and has been used in Delta.

Mr. Narang asked if there is a specific team that works with the MICR and was advised that initially, there were 3 dedicated members. However, the team has transitioned to being more open and allowing other members to be on it to impart knowledge and provide more exposure to the program.

Ms. Padda asked how long the program will be funded and was advised that it is supposed to be for three (3) years. Port Moody was the first agency to roll out HealthIM, and Delta has been using it for two (2) years and has been very successful. It was noted that having it web-based makes it easier.

Insp. Murray advised that the nurses and officers must keep notes on their files, but on separate databases. The MOU currently under construction states the officer cannot have direct access to healthcare databases and that the nurse cannot send their file to police, but they can share information. He also advised that sometimes the narrative of why an officer did not apprehend an individual is longer than why they did.

Mr. Holloway asked if the nurses had been harmed and was advised they had not.

Mr. Holloway asked what ACT stands for and was advised that it stands for Assertive Community Treatment.

6. Proposed Amendment to Appendix "E" – Per Diems of the Abbotsford Police Board Manual

Chief Watson reported on the current board policy and the payment of per diems. He advised that there was a misalignment between the policy and the budget with respect to the per diem entitlement for the policy review process and that the proposed amendment is to align the budget and policy. He specifically noted the following changes:

- Paragraph #22 was added.
- Paragraph #1 was modified to change the language to reflect the recent changes to the *Police Act*. Given the Mayor is no longer automatically the Chair of the board, the language was changed to reflect that members appointed by City Council would not be further compensated for their time on the board.
- That per diems would be paid out on a quarterly basis as opposed to a monthly basis as per a previous board meeting earlier this year.

Decision: It was moved and seconded that Appendix "E" is **approved**. The motion **adopted**.

7. CAPG Conference in Halifax – Sponsorship Request

Discussion that the board has previously sponsored conferences when they were held locally, and for recruitment purposes.

Decision: The Abbotsford Police Board respectfully declines the sponsorship request from the CAPG Conference in Halifax for 2024.

8. Abbotsford Community Foundation

Chief Watson reported on the board's history of sponsoring scholarships for local schools, as advised by the Abbotsford Community Foundation. It was specifically noted that normally, the board would be consulted about the selection of scholarships, but that was not done this year. Mr. Dominato reported that the award is not elected by the board but presented by the board. Ms. Padda noted that she presented the award last year and was also asked to nominate the recipient.

Chief Watson advised that the Abbotsford Community Foundation is looking for a police board member to present the bursary on behalf of the board and present it at the graduation ceremony.

Decision: Ms. Padda will present the award for Rick Hansen on June 18th, at the Abbotsford Pentecostal Assembly.

Decision: Mr. Holloway will present the award for Robert Bateman Secondary on June 24th, at the Abbotsford Entertainment Centre.

9. Board Correspondence

Chief Watson advised that the police department has been adding more correspondence items to the packages for the board's awareness. If the board would like to see less correspondence in the packages, let Shyanne know.

Mr. Holloway noted he had questions about the OPCC and the board's responsibility compared to the department's responsibility regarding service complaints and requested to discuss this further in the in-camera meeting.

10. Chief's Report

Chief Watson, DCC Burrows, and DCC Culbertson reported on the following:

- **General update** – The Chief has had several community meetings and consultations, and most notably his recent meeting with Chief Dalton Silver of the Sumas First Nation.
- **SITE Funding update** – The department continues to draw on provincial grant funding through the SITE program. The department has secured another \$350K in funding for different targeted projects. The total grant received so far is a little over \$1 Mill. The department continues to keeping good stats and information to assist with securing further grants.
- **Decriminalization** – Federal government made changes to s. 56 exemption which has been rolled out. We are waiting for further information from the Province, which include minor but important details. It was noted that addiction is a health concern and that the changes are in early stages and is being rolled out. The core of the changes is how the department exercises authority.
- **Hockey playoff updates** – DCC Culbertson noted that the playoff had financial impacts, which were tracked and resulted in roughly \$65K spent on callouts and overtime. He also advised the department did try to modify shifts as per the collective agreement to help with the costs. Mr. Holloway asked why there would be an increase in police presence and costs if the Canucks won a game. DCC Culbertson advised that when they won, it would result in the public celebrating on South Fraser Way and that the main issue was driving behaviours. He did not that there were not a number of violent events, but that the department has to be prepared.
- **Civil Forfeiture Grant** – The Province approved \$40K and it is done by UFV (PARC program). It is designed to be a 3-year tiered project for the facilitation of practical and meaningful relationships. The department received the funds but is constricted the timeframe by March 2025. It was noted that this grant is a positive step towards reconciliation.

11. Standing Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Governance & Policy Committee – Nothing to report.

Human Resources Committee – Nothing to report.

12. Other Business

None raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 AM.

“Original Signed”

Chair – Ross Siemens

“Original Signed”

Recording Secretary – Shyanne Bergen